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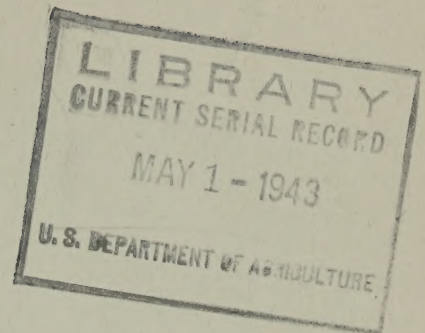
OBSERVANCE
OF
4-H CLUB SUNDAY

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"The spiritual development of the individual is essential to a full, well-rounded life of service. In this development, the Christian church plays a large part. Through the centuries it has proved a source of strength which has enabled both youth and adults to meet unflinchingly life's problems. It has given hope to those whose feet have faltered. It has helped to renew faith in their ability to serve and to serve well. It has brought to all whose hearts are attuned to the Infinite that inspiration and sense of spiritual unity with one's fellow men that is so essential to any people in times of crisis."

- M. L. Wilson.

EXTENSION SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating



THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

REMINDERS TO 4-H MEMBERS IN THE
OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

"The official documents of American history . . . affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation."

-- United States Supreme Court decision.

"The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed."

-- President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade."

-- Former President Theodore Roosevelt.

"The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country."

-- Former President William Howard Taft.

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

-- Former President Woodrow Wilson.

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

-- Former President Calvin Coolidge.

"Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization."

-- Former President Herbert Hoover.

OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

1943

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization, 4-H Club Work

The date for the observance of 4-H Club Sunday this year will vary considerably, depending upon the programs already planned by different church groups. Many 4-H Clubs join with rural churches in observing Rural Life Sunday. Rural Life Sunday occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter, having its roots in the Rogation days. Therefore, this year it will fall on May 30 for those who adhere strictly to the precedent established in 1929 when Rural Life Sunday was first observed. However, because May 30 is Memorial Day, State club leaders are suggesting other dates in May.

APPROPRIATE THEMES

Because the dates for the observance of 4-H Club Sunday this year will vary considerably, themes will also vary in different States and communities. But whatever the theme may be, it should emphasize the spiritual values necessary for a united people engaged in a great cause. The observance should also afford club members an opportunity to identify themselves with those people of the community who are now bent on making every sacrifice possible that will aid in winning the war.

Because this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, some States may wish to plan the observance of 4-H Club Sunday around the theme of "Jefferson, the Farmer" or "Jefferson, the Citizen" or "Jefferson, the Statesman," as the writer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Virginia, Ambassador to France, Vice President and President of the United States. As part of any such program, it should be pointed out to 4-H Club members that:

"Thomas Jefferson comes nearer than any other single person to being the father of scientific agricultural thought in the United States and is often referred to as the founder of scientific agriculture. Probably few of our Colonial statesmen were as well read in the science of the day as Thomas Jefferson. While in France he came in contact with the scientific men on the continent of Europe and was always interested in agriculture. Jefferson probably was the first American of prominence in public life to recognize agriculture as a science. He made provision in the organization of the University of Virginia for a chair of scientific agriculture. In public and in private activities Jefferson's approach was usually scientific. Of all the public figures of the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary period he seems to have had

the greatest faith in the development and practical application of science in order to lighten man's burden and raise the general standard of human living."^{*}

Because President Roosevelt has proclaimed May 16 as "I am an American Day," 4-H Clubs may wish to observe Rural Life Sunday at that time. Particularly appropriate would be emphasis on good citizenship. The 4-H Citizenship Ceremony might be presented to good advantage in helping to understand "more fully the duties and opportunities of citizenship and its special responsibilities in a nation at war." As a part of such a program, it may be well to emphasize that citizenship in this country implies an adherence to Christian ideals. Many of the founders of America came here so that they might have freedom of worship - the pilgrims in Massachusetts, the Catholics in Maryland, the Lutherans in Pennsylvania and Delaware, the Quakers in Pennsylvania. Moreover, from the inception of our Nation, outstanding American statesmen have emphasized spiritual ideals in their public life. Familiar is the story of Washington on his knees in prayer at Valley Forge. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, made a public statement, "The Bible is the rock on which this republic is built." William Penn made many statements of a religious nature. Patrick Henry in some of his immortal utterances was very strong on the religious side. So, too, was Abraham Lincoln. William McKinley died with the Lord's prayer on his lips. And then there are the many inspiring religious statements by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The fact that the United States is the only country with a religious statement on its currency can be woven into an effective story. Finally, the defense of the freedom of worship can be brought into the program as one of the outstanding purposes of this war.

Reports indicate that in some States the theme will be the Four Freedoms. Concerning this theme, J. R. Hargreaves states: "Since the beginning of civilization, ruthless and self-centered men, to further their own ends, have sought to enslave their fellows. Before the hoped-for just peace is worked out, the ambition of such characters must be displaced by an unselfish spirit of fellowship which, starting with the community, will spread to the State, the Nation, and eventually to the world. The utopia of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want, can come only gradually and should start in your corner and mine right now. To preserve the freedom of speech we will not only need to fight the aggressor, but, within our own country will learn to patiently endure and seek to appreciate the expressed opinions of all honest citizens. Concerning freedom of religion, let it be understood that no matter how we may throttle it, we cannot take from the souls of men that impulse which is inherent in all human beings. Religion is not something apart; it is an element of all normal living. It is the influence which holds men and society in line with their normal fulfillment. For that reason it underlies

^{*}From writings of M. L. Wilson.

all the freedoms and their normal exercise. Religion must not only be unhindered; it should be facilitated if the freedoms are to be attained and made meaningful and effective.

"Freedom from want - one of the greatest social ambitions - involves the placing of the necessities of life within the reach of such measure of ambition and energy as each person is capable of exercising. It involves the providing of opportunities for the various classes of our own State and Nation, together with a just regard for the rights of our fellowmen of other nations and races. We are no longer a people by ourselves. The old boundaries have disappeared. And with them our old practices of restrictions and special privilege will also need to disappear. In their place should come an appreciation of other people on a more world-wide basis. Freedom from want implies the providing of opportunity for achieving results and for the use of talents and opportunities to that end. It will be hard to work out, for it must safeguard the opportunities and responsibilities of all the people of the world. Those who would be benefactors must first learn to put themselves in the place of those they would help and look to the long-distance future. Freedom from fear is the just heritage of all civilized nations. Just because fear is hidden does not imply its nonexistence. It is one of the most universal handicaps. It is related to the instinct of self-preservation. Therefore, to free people from fear, the way of self-preservation should be made much clearer as well as surer than it is today. Fear is not alone confined to aggression and displacement from home by an enemy country, but is also aroused by anxiety incident to the possible losing of employment regardless of physical fitness or interest. Fear involves not only the taking of a person's freedom by an army from without but also the taking of his privilege of independent struggle for existence in his own life situation, and by whatever imposed limitations. Summing up we can surely see and appreciate that to provide for protection in the four freedoms referred to involves much more than altruistic intention backed by appropriations or treaties. Our best minds, our most advanced social science, and our most devoted Christian spirit must be brought into play."

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"We hold these truths
to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable rights,
that among these
are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

- Thomas Jefferson: Declaration of
Independence.

SUGGESTIONS FOR 4-H SERVICE OUT OF DOORS

SUNRISE OR SUNSET

In a number of States, 4-H Clubs have held effective sunrise and sunset services in some beautiful scenic setting. If such a plan is carried out, the following suggestions may prove helpful.

Prayer and Choral Response

Thou Eternal Spirit of Life, the Heavens declare thy glory and the fields and woods reveal thy providing care. Thou art our Father.

As the stars in their courses make known thy power, so do the beauties in flower and bird show the provisions for our pleasures and suggest the value of all created things. We would know how to use and how to protect and conserve the values which are in all thy creation. May thy purposes not be defeated by our carelessness but rather increased by our appreciation.

We thank thee for all thy provisions for human happiness, for the love of home and friends and for all those influences which turn work into pleasure and make of what might have been life's monotonies a bright song. We pray that thy spirit may govern us in all our activities and all our pleasures and social contacts, and in such manner that we may spend our days in harmony with thy holy will and our Eternal well-being. Help us to feel that all legitimate work is holy, and in it may we constantly come to a clearer understanding and consciousness of the Divine presence. May we so live that thy face will always be visible, even as to the pure in heart.

We pray for an ever-increasing understanding of our war-torn world. May we do our full part in helping to win the war and bring about a just and lasting peace. In all this, may we exercise that power of initiative which can take advantage of situations and conquer difficulties. May we come to understand that the development of this initiative is a sacred duty and that in using it we are working together with thee. We also pray for that life consciousness which looks beyond the world we now see and beholds our fulfillment in a greater sphere. As we live in time may we come more and more to feel the sense of eternity and to make our plans accordingly.

In our 4-H Club work, give us the power to be thankful for our many varied experiences. May we rejoice with those who have won recognition and be sharers in the satisfaction that comes from doing a worthwhile piece of work. Where there have been disappointments may they carry with them some lesson which will be of future advantage. If there

has been any experience we should forget, give us the power and grace to cast it from our minds, but let the aroma of the pleasant carry back to our homes and clubs. We pray thy favor on our club leaders and associates, on our county extension agents, and may our local helpers, who have given so freely and unselfishly of their time, feel that they have been doing thy service. As we have freely received, may we be prepared to pass on that which we have gained; to serve our communities as we have been served. May we see Jesus in our everyday contacts and may He become the pattern of our lives. Amen.

Songs

Appropriate songs might include America, the Beautiful, The Flowing Song, The Field Song, The Four-Leaf Clover Song, Song of the Open Country, and Dreaming.

Poems

Appropriate poems may be read effectively with musical accompaniment such as William Cullen Bryant's "Lines on Revisiting the Country," or "My Creed" better known as "I Would Be True."

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation, indivisible; with liberty and justice for all.

Benediction

May the silence of the hills,
The joy of the winds,
The peace of the fields,
The music of the birds,
The fire of the sun,
The strength of the trees,
And the faith of a little child,
In all of which is God,
Be in your hearts.

AMEN

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

TYPES OF OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS IN 1942

All club members attended the church of their choice.
Clubs went in a body to a combined service in a central church.
Clubs held service in a local hall.
Clubs put on special services during Sunday school hour.
Clubs held special service in some scenic setting.
Clubs conducted entire church service, evening or afternoon.
Clubs made certain desirable contributions to the service.

TYPICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS TO CHURCH SERVICES IN 1942

Made careful plans to suit local conditions. Appointed a special committee to assume responsibility.
Made contact with ministers in each county and obtained their co-operation.
Attended church as a group and wore membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.
Gave talks; read poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; contributed special musical numbers.
Furnished pastor with information about 4-H Club work to be included in sermon.
Invited parents, neighbors, and other friends to attend.
Took charge of ushering.
Decorated the church with plants and flowers.
Had a 4-H Club committee in uniform to welcome people at the door of the church.
Made and put up posters encouraging people to attend church.

SUGGESTIONS FOR 1943 REPORT OF THE OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS

It is suggested that reports be made regarding:

The type of program and theme developed.
The number of services held.
The total number of 4-H members in attendance.
Ways in which the 4-H members participated.
General impressions of the results of the observance of 4-H Club Sunday.

SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE
IN
4-H CLUB WORK

THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CREED

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me, to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my State, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

THE 4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living, for
My Club, my Community, and my Country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED*

I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

*The American's Creed was written by William Tyler Page, Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, in 1917. It was adopted and promoted by the Government's Committee on Publication, and was accepted by the House of Representatives on behalf of the American people on April 3, 1918. Since then its message has been an inspiration to the American Nation; and its spirit of faith will carry it through the centuries as one of the finest expressions of patriotism.